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Letter dated 21 February 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that, in the context of the appeal made by the Government of Burundi to the politicians in exile and after the cancellation of 15 arrest warrants against some of them, several politicians from the radical opposition have just decided to return to Burundi to participate in the socioeconomic development efforts of the country and in the next general elections, in 2020. With the continuation of the inter-Burundi dialogue in good faith and the multiplication of signs of reconciliation, such as the recent release of 2,500 prisoners and the cancellation of legal proceedings against 11 civil society organizations, the return to Burundi of other politicians in exile is expected in the coming days. Among those who have already arrived in Burundi since 20 February 2017 are, among others, the following: (a) Sylvestre Ntibantunganya, former President of the Republic of Burundi; (b) Alice Nzomukunda, former second Vice-President of the Republic of Burundi; (c) Joseph Ntidendereza, member of Parliament of the radical opposition party Front for Democracy in Burundi-Nyakuri; and (d) Mathias Basabose, member of Parliament and former high-ranking leader of the ruling National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy.

I would be grateful if you could have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Albert **Shingiro**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations

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